



E-Newsletter www.house.gov/simpson October 1, 2003



Message from Mike

Last week the House and Senate passed two of the conference appropriations bills and they are now on their way to the President's desk. The appropriations process is Congress' main responsibility. In the spring, we start with hearings on budget issues, gather funding requests and then craft the legislation that goes through many revisions before being signed into law. It's a fascinating process. Stay tuned to the e-newsletter to learn more about how Idaho benefits from this process.

Mike and intern Mike Kitson in the Boise office. If you know someone who is interested in interning for Congressman Mike Simpson in Washington, D.C., please contact Luci Willits at 208-334-1953

Simpson Named to Appropriations Conference Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Mike Simpson has been named to his first appropriations conference committee by House Appropriations Chairman Bill Young. Simpson will help negotiate differences between the House and Senate versions of the FY 2004 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. Simpson was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee in January 2003, the first Idahoan in 40 years to serve on the committee.

"The Energy and Water appropriations bill is one of the most important for Idaho because of its focus on rural water projects and funding for DOE sites like the INEEL," said Simpson. "This is my first appropriations conference committee, and I'm looking forward to actively participating in the process and joining forces with Senator Craig to protect the interests of our state," Simpson said.

Once a conference committee comes to an agreement, the bill will be sent back to each chamber for passage, before being delivered to President George W. Bush.

Washington, DC,
1339 Longworth
Washington, D.C.
20515
Phone: 202-225-5531
Fax: 202-225-8216

Boise Office
802 West Bannock,
Suite 600
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: 208-334-1953
Fax: 208-334-9533

Idaho Falls Office
490 Memorial Drive,
Suite 103
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208-523-6701
Fax: 208-523-2384

Twin Falls Office
1201 Falls Ave. E.
Suite 25
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-734-7219
Fax: 208-734-7244

Pocatello Office
801 E. Sherman, Suite
194
Pocatello, ID 83201
Phone: 208-478-4160
Fax: 208-478-4162

Weekly Website

Why is your money greener? Find Out!

<http://www.moneyfactory.com/newmoney/>

Federal Facts

According to the Census Bureau, 120 million Americans are married.

Idaho History Quiz

What Idaho town is known as the “top of Idaho”?

Answer this question correctly and you’ll be featured in next week’s e-newsletter!

The monarch butterfly is Idaho’s official state insect.

Quote of the Week

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way.”

— Charles Dickens,
“A Tale of Two Cities”

Funds Secured for Wildfire, Grasshoppers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Legislation containing vital funds to fight catastrophic wildfires and control Mormon cricket infestations in Idaho is now on its way to the President.

The House and Senate both approved the \$3.54 billion FY 2004 Legislative Branch Appropriations Conference Report that included \$320 million for both fighting wildfires and completing preventive projects. Due to prolonged drought and a hot fire season, many agencies were scrambling to fund necessary fire fighting activities. Several agencies were forced to take funds from other accounts to cover the costs of protecting property and resources, in turn depleting money for important prevention projects. To help agencies fund firefighting and fuel load reduction, this additional funding was added into the Senate version of the bill and then the conference report.

Mormon crickets have emerged as a devastating annual problem for farmers, land managers, property owners, and even to those traveling Southern Idaho's roads. In recent years, the area of cricket invasion has increased as much as 100 times above normal years, and populations are reaching ten times the seasonal average due to ongoing drought conditions. The Mormon cricket is responsible for havoc wrecked on croplands and consuming thousands of acres of critical range, which directly serve wildlife such as deer and upland birds. The bill earmarked \$20 million to be evenly divided between Idaho, Nevada, and Utah for suppression and control of the continued Mormon cricket infestation.

Once the bill reaches the President’s desk, he has 10 days to sign or veto the legislation or it automatically becomes law.

House Votes to Ensure “Do Not Call List” Goes National

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson joined the U.S. House of Representatives in passing legislation to clarify that the Federal Trade Commission does have the authority to establish a national “Do Not Call List.”

The “Do Not Call Implementation Act” became public law in March, but recent court challenges have put the Do Not Call List in limbo. Congress is stepping up to ensure that Americans have the right to stop irritating telemarketing calls. Today’s action takes aim at those court challenges to leave no doubt that the FTC does and will have the authority to establish the “Do Not Call List.” Congress overwhelmingly passed the bill by a vote of 412 to 8.

According to the “Do Not Call List,” consumers across the country can add their phone numbers to a list, making it illegal for most telemarketers to call. Once the Commission gets Congressional approval for funding, it will begin implementing the registry. The national “Do Not Call List” will not supercede Idaho’s successful and fully operational “Do Not Call List.”

“Like a lot of Americans, I’m frustrated that legal wrangling has stopped this law from going forward. Idahoans have been fortunate to have this protection for almost 3 years. This bill would provide the same protection to all American consumers. Congress’ swift action to clarify this law shows it is committed to making sure Americans have the choice to avoid annoying and unwelcome telephone calls,” Simpson said.

Simpson Encourages Students to Intern

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Mike Simpson is encouraging college students to apply for internships in his Washington, D.C. office. Interns witness the inner workings of a Congressional office. They attend issue and press briefings, draft constituent letters, give Capitol tours to visiting Idahoans, and assist in data entry.

To apply for an internship in Washington, D.C. download the internship application from <http://www.house.gov/simpson>. Internships typically last between three and four months. The office will work with students to obtain college credit. The deadline for internships starting in January 2004 is November 17, 2003. Internships are also available during the summer and fall semesters. Please fax or mail your application to:

Congressman Mike Simpson
802 W. Bannock #600
Boise, ID 83702
208-334-9533 Fax

For more information, please contact Luci Willits at 208-334-1953. Internships are also available in Simpson’s four district offices

House Passes Idaho Water Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Congressmen Mike Simpson and C.L. “Butch” Otter helped the House approve a bill late Wednesday that authorizes a number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects across the country, including eight in Idaho.

H.R. 2557, the “Water Resources Development Act of 2003,” passed on a vote of 412 to 8. It includes project authorizations, modifications, studies and policy initiatives for the Corps of Engineers’ Civil Works Program – the nation’s largest water resources program. The bill authorizes and directs the Corps to carry out more than 300 studies, projects and programs relating to navigation, flood damage reduction, shoreline protection, dam safety, water supply, recreation, environmental restoration and protection.

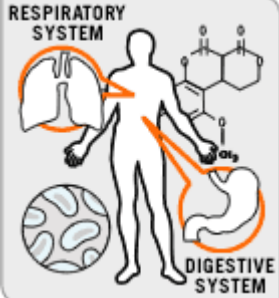
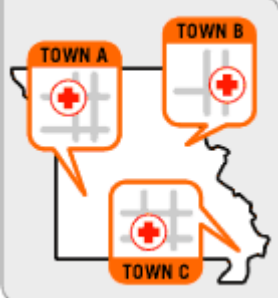
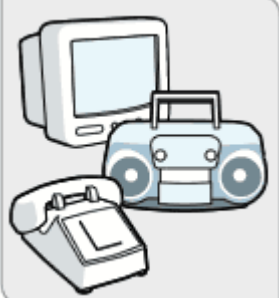



The bill authorizes the following funding for studies and projects in Idaho:

- \$7 million for a federal feasibility study for the city of Gooding to restore and repair the masonry wall lining of the Little Wood River to prevent flooding within the city.
- \$5 million dollars for aquifer and wellhead protection projects to ensure the integrity of the local water supply at the Snake River near Jerome.
- \$5 million dollars for a dam safety program to study inundation, perform terrorist risk analyst on dam structures and examine cost effective alternatives for repairing and replacing dams. Dams included in this study are Barber Dam in Ada County, Fish Creek Dam in Blaine County, Salmon Falls Dam in Twin Falls and Lost Valley Dam located in Adams County.
- \$2.3 million to modernize campsites, renovate the gatehouse, improve restroom and shower houses, boat docks and ramps, fishing piers and picnic shelters at the Riley Creek Recreation Area at the Albeni Falls Dam in Bonner County. Money would also be used to repair parking lots, upgrade the sewer system and provide full access to individuals with disabilities.
- The legislation eliminates land-use restrictions imposed on the Port of Lewiston when it acquired property from the Corps of Engineers. Use of the former Corps land was restricted to “industrial purposes” under the previous agreement. Under the legislation approved Wednesday, the Port of Lewiston will be able to make its facilities more economically diverse.

Homeland Security

The Homeland Security section is part of the e-newsletter's focus on bring Idahoans information on emergency preparedness. Today's topic focuses on what a biological attack is and what to do about it.

What do I do in case of a biological attack?

		
<p>1.</p> <p><i>A biological attack is the release of germs or other biological substances. Many agents must be inhaled, enter through a cut in the skin or be eaten to make you sick. Some biological agents can cause contagious diseases, others do not.</i></p>	<p>2.</p> <p>A biological attack may or may not be immediately obvious. While it is possible that you will see signs of a biological attack it is perhaps more likely that local health care workers will report a pattern of unusual illness.</p>	<p>3.</p> <p>You will probably learn of the danger through an emergency radio or TV broadcast.</p>
		
<p>4.</p> <p>If you become aware of an unusual or suspicious release of an unknown substance nearby, it doesn't hurt to protect yourself.</p>	<p>5.</p> <p>Get away from the substance as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>Cover your mouth and nose with layers of fabric that can filter the air but still allow breathing.</p>